

February 13, 2008

MEMORANDUM

TO: Local and ISD Superintendents
Public School Academy Directors
Michigan Citizens

FROM: Janet Olszewski, Director *fel*
Michigan Department of Community Health

Mike Flanagan, Superintendent of Public Instruction
Michigan Department of Education *mf*

SUBJECT: *State of Adolescent Sexual Health in Michigan* White Paper

The Michigan Department of Community Health (MDCH) and the Michigan Department of Education (MDE) are pleased to present a comprehensive white paper, the *State of Adolescent Sexual Health in Michigan*. This paper represents one of the first snapshots of integrated data pertaining to the serious consequences of sexual behavior among Michigan adolescents. The goal of this document is to inspire future action from policy makers, state and local health agencies, schools, parents, community-based organizations, the faith community, and other key stakeholders concerned about critical health issues affecting adolescents in our state.

As with most health issues, an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure—money spent on preventing teen pregnancy and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV, is more cost effective than money spent on attempts to remedy the crippling personal, social, and economic consequences. For example, programs in Michigan to reduce the teen birth rate are estimated to have saved \$297 million in 2004 alone.

If Michigan is to continue to make progress addressing these serious health issues, policies and programs must be preventive, collaborative, and sustained. We look forward to ongoing dialogue and action at the state and local levels to promote the health and well-being of Michigan's adolescents.

The document will be available via the MDE website at http://www.michigan.gov/mde/0,1607,7-140-28753_38684_29233-19504--,00.html and the MDCH website at www.michigan.gov/cahc.